Sea erosion along the coastal area of Maharashtra

5471. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe problem of sea erosion along the coastal area of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance given to Maharashtra for coastal protection during the last three years;

(c) whether any funds earmarked during the Ninth Five year plan for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any plan to use modern technologies to check coastal erosion in coastal area of Maharashtra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government has not provided any Central Assistance to Maharashtra for Coastal Protection Works over and above the annual plan outlay earmarked for flood control subsector, including sea erosion, during the last three years.

(c) and (d) The Ninth Plan agreed outlay for flood control including sea-erosion works in Maharashtra is Rs. 2.7 crore.

(e) and (f) Besides the conventional structural and non-structural measures PVC coated gabions and flexible nylon gabions have been used on experimental basis in some of the coastal States. Sea wall using high density monofilament woven plastic cloth as filter material have also been successfully tried. Performance of the structures constructed using alternate designs/modern technology would have to be monitored for some more seasons before arriving at definite conclusions about the use.

Revival of Water Storage and Management

†5472. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the old techniques of water storage and management in the country are gradually vanishing;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have carried out documentation of these techniques and methods; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to revive these old and time tested methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The old techniques of Water Storage like Irrigation Tanks, village ponds etc. continue to serve a useful purpose and provide storage for water. However, lack of maintenance and silting has reduced their storage capacity. Some of the water bodies have also been encroached upon due to population pressure. In some areas where such water bodies are not able to meet the increasing demands, the health and sanitary standards and convenience of more assured water supply systems, alternative means of water supply, were provided which have led to decline in the use of traditional water bodies. The first census of minor irrigation schemes in the country was carried out by Ministry of Water Resources for the base year 1986-87 and the second census was carried out for the base year 1993-94. Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has brought out "Guide on Sustainability of Drinking Water Sources," illustrating various water harvesting techniques. They have also published a "Hand Book on Rainwater Harvesting."

Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and roof top rain water harvesting under the Sector reform Project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Government and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge. The Government of India through Centrally sponsored Jawahar Rojgar Yojana is encouraging restoration of traditional system of rainwater harvesting.

Rehabilitation of Oustees of Sardar Sarovar Dam

5473. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narmada Bachao Andolan continues its protests, dharnas and fasts to press their demand for a joint survey of land to resettle the Sardar Sarovar oustees; and

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in resettling these oustees, and how many of the oustees still remain to be settled?